REMARKS

Claims 16-36 are pending in the present application, with claims 16, 18 and 26 being the independent claims. Claims 16-36 have been rejected. Claims 16-25 and 35 have been canceled for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application.

Claims 24 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 24 and 35 have been canceled, thereby obviating their rejections.

Claims 16-36 have been rejected the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,898, which is assigned to the assignee of the present application. Claims 16-25 and 35 have been canceled. A terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection is being filed herewith.

Claims 16-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Santerre (U.S. Patent No. 6,205,561). These claims have been canceled, thereby obviating their rejections.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claims 26-34 and 36 overcomes the prior art. In view of the terminal disclaimer filed herewith, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26-34 and 36 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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